25th March 1922]

(f) Under section 15 (4) of the Police Act, 1861, this is a matter which is left to the discretion of the District Magistrate and no specific proposals have been received from him.

(g) The Government have no information.

II

COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL.

With reference to the answers to question No. 1213 asked by Rao Bahadur P. C. Etirajulu Nayudu and the supplementary question put by M.R.Ry. O. Tanikachala Chettiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 21st January 1922, the Secretary laid on the table G.O. No. 329, dated 16th March 1922.

III

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

DEMAND XXIV—LABOUR AND ALLIED DEPARTMENTS—*cont.*

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The Council will now resume discussion of the budget for 1922-23—Demand XXIV—Labour and allied departments."

Motion 645.

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Sir, I beg to make the following motion :—

645. *To omit the allotment of Rs. 4,240 for Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Labour.*

" Sir, I have first to assure this House, and especially my friends opposite (*referring to the representatives of the depressed classes*), that it is not my intention in giving notice of this motion that by this means there should be any stoppage in the progress that has been made in the amelioration of the depressed classes, or that the progress for this year or the next and the years after should in any way be arrested. I am aware, Sir, that for a long time we have been negligent in our duty towards the communities which have come to be called the Panchamas and the depressed classes. The very name is a slur on us not on them I should think. It only shows that we have not paid them the attention that they are entitled to receive at our hands. The arrangements made by the Government for uplifting the depressed classes have aroused strong feeling in this city on both sides. The Government at first appointed a Commissioner to look after the interests of the depressed classes. Unfortunately they added later on to him the duty of looking after labour and labour problems. By that means and by the unfortunate occurrences which took place last year a considerable amount of bad blood has been roused and I fear anybody who brings a motion like this is likely to be looked upon by one side or the other with those feelings in mind. So far as I am concerned, Sir, I may assure the House that those occurrences which took place last year and the feelings that the very same occurrences have roused have nothing to do with me, and if I have brought this motion, it is not because of any of those occurrences or of any of those feelings, but because in the interests of the depressed classes and in the interests of their advancement I consider that it is necessary that we should reduce the cost of the establishment that is provided for their benefit. Sir, it is unfortunate that we are not in affluent circumstances and we cannot afford to allot for the amelioration of these classes all that will be necessary. Our finances are very